

San Antonio, TX - Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23) today urged people to take a advantage of the economic stimulus package passed this year by Congress and get free tax advice if they are one of the many Americans qualified for the expert advice while visiting a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

"Filing tax returns can often be a frustrating and overwhelming process, with forms that seem like they are written in difficult technical language," said Rodriguez.
"Fortunately, resources are available throughout Texas to lessen the hassle and help taxpayers prepare and file their returns."

Taxpayers are generally eligible for an economic stimulus check if filing a 2007 income tax return reporting tax liability or have earned income, Social Security income, Railroad Retirement benefits, or disabled veterans' benefits of more than \$3,000. The credit phases out for those taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$75,000 (\$150,000 for a joint return) or more. If you are claimed as a dependent on someone else's return, such as your parents, you are not eligible.

"Families in San Antonio and across West Texas could save thousands of dollars this year by taking advantage of VITA and the economic stimulus package," continued Rodriguez.

Items taxpayers need to bring to the VITA/TCE sites to have their tax returns prepared include photo identification; Social Security cards; birthdays of filers and dependents; current year tax information, including wage and earning statement(s) Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R from all employers; interest and dividend statements; a copy of last year's Federal and State returns and bank routing and account numbers for direct deposits. When filing a joint tax return, both spouses must be present to electronically sign the necessary forms.

Taxpayers are encouraged to take advantage of the resources that are available to provide tax assistance. You can locate a VITA site by calling 2-1-1 or visiting the IRS website for information about [Free Tax Preparation Assistance](#) .